(b) Under the Scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure, Central Assistance of Rs. 37.43 lakhs for construction of Distt. Sports Complex at Una/playfields in government schools has been released to the Government of Himachal Pradesh during 2003-04 (as on 30.7.2003). For the same period, Central Assistance of Rs. 2.78 lakhs has also been released under our Scheme of Grants to Rural Schools for Purchase of sports equipment and development of playground to various rural schools of Himachal Pradesh.

(c) to (e) No Such proposal has been received during the last three years, from the Government of Himachal Pradesh. As per norms of the scheme, Central Assistance of upto Rs. 5.00 lakhs or 50% of approved estimate, which ever is less, is admissible for construction of Indoor Sports Hall in the Government Schools.

Welfare of Indian sports persons of past glory

1486. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) what action Government have taken for the welfare of the Indian sports persons of past glory like an ex-hockey player whose story appeared in the media recently; and

(b) whether Government have extended any financial assistance to him; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) Government of India have been implementing following schemes for the welfare of sports persons of yesteryears:

(i) Under the scheme of National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons monthly pension upto Rs. 2500/- per month and/or lump-sum financial assistance upto Rs. 40,000/- for medical treatment is sanctioned to outstanding Sportspersons living in indigent circumstances *i.e.*, whose monthly income is less than 3000/- from all sources.

(ii) Under the scheme of Sports Fund for Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons life pension is admissible to

sportspersons who are Indian citizens and have won medals in international sports events at the following rates:

(A) Rs. 2500/- p.m. for medallists of the Olympic Games, Gold medallists of the World Cups/World Championships in Olympic and Asian Games disciplines.

(B) Rs. 2000/- p.m. for Silver and Bronze medallists of the World Cups/World Championships in Olympic and Asian Games disciplines and Gold medallists of the Asian and Commonwealth Games.

As regards Shri Manohar Topno, ex-Hockey player, whose story appeared in the English daily "The Hindustan Times" dated 9.6.2003, the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has not received any application from him for financial assistance/pension under any of the said schemes.

12.00 NOON

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Memoranda of Understanding (2003-2004) between Govt. of India and KRCL, IRCON International Ltd. and RITES Ltd.:

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) Sir, I lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Railways) and the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) for the year 2003-2004. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7854/03]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Railways) and the IRCON International Limited for the year 2003-2004. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7855/03]

(iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Railways) and the RITES Limited for the year 2003-2004. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7856/03]